SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, in this Session itself we admit the notice. I say with responsibility that there would be a proper discussion and reply from the hon. Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

AIDS Hospital at Bellary

*401. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for establishment of 100 bedded AIDS Hospital at Vijaynagar Institute of Medical Science, Bellary, is pending with Government;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when a final decision would be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. In 2005, NACO worked with the WHO on developing a proposal for providing a comprehensive package of services at all levels of health care in three districts namely Bellary in Karnataka, Madurai in Tamil Nadu and Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh on pilot basis. At that time Karnataka State AIDS Control Society suggested to earmark 50 of the 278 beds in the District TB and Chest Diseases Hospital as a model care and support center to cater to HIV AIDS patients.

However, with the availability of resources under the Global Fund Projects, NACO has provided access to these services in most districts of high prevalent States of Karnataka, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Nagaland and Manipur as per the need. Accordingly, at Vijaynagar Institute of Medical Science, Bellary, one ART center has been established and 93 persons are being provided anti retroviral therapy free of cost.

Besides, due to the policy of the Government of India to mainstream HIV/AIDS within the public health infrastructure, there is no proposal to establish exclusive hospital or earmark beds for treatment of AIDS separately, more particularly because it may result in further stigmatization of HIV infected persons.